

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 19, 25, 27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over EP 0955347 to Colas et al. The Examiner argues that Colas et al. teach a method of adhering a silicone gel to a substrate comprising the steps of forming a layer of silicone gel on a sheet, treating the silicone gel with a precursor of titanate, platinum, or Si-H containing siloxane; applying the silicone gel to a carrier; removing the sheet from the silicone gel and applying the silicone gel to a substrate to which the silicone gel is adhered to.

Although the Examiner alleges that Colas et al discloses treating the silicone gel with a precursor of titanate, platinum, or Si-H containing siloxane (paragraph 0016), this is not what Colas et al. is teaching. In paragraph 0016 Colas et al. is teaching how the gels are formed, not treated. In order to treat the surface of the gel, one must produce the gel first. Thus Colas et al. fails to disclose treating the surface of the silicone gel. Therefore, the applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn and the claims allowed to issue.

The Examiner has rejected claims 20-24, 26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over EP 0955347 to Colas et al. The Examiner argues that Colas teaches a method of adhering a silicone gel to a substrate, comprising the steps of: forming a layer of a silicone gel on a sheet; treating a carrier by casting a precursor of titanate, platinum or Si-H containing siloxanes; applying the silicone gel on the sheet to the carrier; removing the sheet from the silicone gel; and applying the silicone gel to a substrate to which the silicone gel is adhered to.

Although the Examiner alleges that Colas et al discloses treating a carrier with a precursor of titanate, platinum, or Si-H containing siloxane (paragraph 0016), this is not what Colas et al. is teaching. In paragraph 0016 Colas et al. is teaching how the gels are formed. Colas et al. does

not teach treating of a carrier or substrate with the materials described in paragraph 0016. The titanate, platinum and Si-H materials described in paragraph 16 are not primers. They are ingredients used in the formation of the gel. In order to treat the surface of the gel, one must produce the gel first. Thus Colas et al. fails to disclose treating the surface a first substrate. Therefore, the applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn and the claims allowed to issue.

This reply is being submitted within the period for response to the outstanding office action. Although the applicants believe in good faith that no extensions of time are needed, the applicants hereby petition for any necessary extensions of time. You are authorized to charge deposit account 04-1520 for any fees necessary to maintain the pendency of this application. You are authorized to make any additional copies of this sheet needed to accomplish the purposes provided for herein and to charge any fee for such copies to deposit account 04-1520.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dow Corning Corporation

/Sharon K. Brady/
Sharon Brady
Reg. No. 34,010
Tel: 989-496-8120